COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Thanks Defense Cost Reduction Participants

President Lyndon B. Johnson visited the Pentagon July 12 to thank members of the Armed Forces and Defense Department civilians for saving $4.5 billion in the FY66 Cost Reduction Program.

"The record you have achieved in your part of the Government's Cost Reduction Program is without equal," he said.

"This is not only $400 million more than had been expected but it occurred at the very time we were building a military force of some 350,000 men in Southeast Asia—10,000 miles away—and providing them with all the massive support and material that they have required."

The President pointed out the real significance of the achievement rests with accomplishing our great task in Southeast Asia without imposing wartime controls.

"We have done it without calling up the Reserve Forces (and to put a smaller force in combat during the first year of the Korean War, it was necessary to mobilize 600,000 men from the Reserves)."

Mr. Johnson said it is difficult for an individual to grasp the significance of a $4.5 billion saving.

"There are 95 countries in the world today, whose individual gross national product is less than $4.5 billion!"

The President scored the importance of each individual's action, stressing that "what makes any government efficient is the assumption of personal responsibility by the people who serve in it."

Among those attending the ceremony were Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) Paul R. Ignatius, Secretaries of the Military Departments, members of JCS, and other high ranking civilian and military officials.

Military Pay Increase Approved

Congress has approved and sent to the President a bill which provides a 3.2 percent across-the-board pay raise for members of the armed forces, retroactive to July 1.

The increase is part of a $17.5 billion Defense procurement authorization.

AWARDED NAVY CROSS—Gen. Oliver P. Smith, USMC (ret.), presents the Navy Cross to Sergeant James E. Mulloy Jr., for extraordinary heroism while serving with 3rd Marine Division during "Operation Starlite" near Chu Lai, RVN, August 18, 1965.

SecDef Expresses Cautious Optimism On Vietnam War

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said he is "cautiously optimistic" about the war in Vietnam.

"We're gaining militarily but it's impossible to predict the time at which this will come to a successful conclusion," he said on return from a one-day visit to Honolulu where he discussed progress of military operations with Admiral U. S. G. Sharp Jr.

Expansion in recent months of U.S. forces in RVN to 280,000 personnel, the secretary said, has resulted in a great increase in the operational effectiveness of U.S. forces.

"We have been thwarting the enemy plans, inflicting very heavy losses on him of both personnel and material," the secretary noted.

Secretary McNamara said air strikes of petroleum storage facilities on the outskirts of Hanoi and Haiphong have been successful, with photographic evidence as proof.

He cited the dramatic increase of the operational helicopter force in RVN of which there are some 1,700 —comparatively high in relation to the operational helicopter strength of other countries.

Washington Memos

DEFENSE SECRETARY has said he anticipates more men will be needed to bolster air and ground strength in Vietnam. He set current Vietnam strength level in round figures at 280,000.

MR. MCNAMARA ALSO told press that FY66 Cost Reduction netted $4.5 billion and that sights are set on a $6.1 billion cost reduction saving in succeeding fiscal years. He stressed, however, that real goal is to increase military capability, pointing out "gold flow" problems can preclude buying of cheaper items overseas.

IT IS TOO early, said Defense Secretary, to assess results of air strike on North Vietnam oil targets and strain placed on VC transport. He also noted allied air attacks on VC supply lines are up some 70 percent.

SECRETARY OF NAVY Paul H. Nitze is scheduled to return July 17 from a visit with Navy and Marine Corps units in Vietnam and ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the South China Sea. Included in Secretary Nitze's party was Dr. Robert Frosch, newly appointed Assistant Secretary of Navy for Research and Development.

SEVENTEEN INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING Certificates of Merit from President Johnson, were representative of thousands of Defense employees who have participated in Cost Reduction Program.

THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS COVER a wide spectrum both in category of effort and dollar amounts. They range from near 99 percent reduction in cost of special belts for Army aircraft to more than $9.5 million reduction in equipment maintenance on Navy aircraft engines by devising method to reclaim engine parts.

DEFENSE IS BUYING 2,884,800 pairs of combat boots from 11 firms at cost of $31,314,180. The firm-fixed-price contracts were awarded by Defense Personnel Support Center, Philadelphia, Pa., field activity of Defense Supply Agency.

SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM O. Woolridge was selected for Army's highest non-commissioned officer slot, Sergeant Major of the Army, and was returned from duty as division sergeant major of 1st Infantry Div. in Vietnam. He had recently volunteered for an additional six months in Vietnam and was scheduled to return next March.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Harold K. Johnson selected Sergeant Major Wooldridge from among 4,700 senior non-commissioned officers to be first to occupy new position.

TRAILER-MOUNTED POWER plant developed by U.S. Army Mobility Equipment Center's Engineer Research and Development Laboratories, Fort Belvior, Va., has been shipped to White Sands, N.M., for compatability testing with Mobile Nike Hercules missile systems.

GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE USS William H. Standley was commissioned July 9 at Boston, Mass. Named for late Adm. William H. Standley, ship will carry Terrier surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine rockets, drone anti-submarine helicopter, one 5-inch 50-caliber gun, two 3-inch 54-caliber guns, anti-submarine torpedoes, and Navy Tactical Data System.

FIRST OF FIVE XC-142 V-Stol aircraft built for tri-service operational evaluation completed 100 flights and logged over 76 flight hours. Tilt-wing transport reached century mark when flown from Bishop, Calif., to Lake Tahoe, Nev., by Lt. Col. Billy Odneal, USA, and Maj. Eric Larsen, USMC. Ability of plane to operate at high altitudes was checked at Lake Tahoe by team of 50 military and civilian personnel from Edwards AFB, Calif.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE discloses the Gulf Stream surged to within 150 miles of New England Coast, closest ever reported in the area. Report of emergence of Gulf Stream so near New England was made by oceanographers aboard USC&GS Ship Whiting, operated by Environmental Science Services Administration's Coast and Geodetic Survey.

TEMPORARY PROMOTION QUOTA released Army-wide authorizes July advancement for more than 68,000 to E-4 or higher. Quota breakdown is 55 E-9s; 388 E-8s; 2,160 E-7s; 5,487 E-6s; 15,390 E-5s; and 45,141 E-4s.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY'S new class will undertake new phase of guerrilla warfare training at end of first four weeks of instruction. Basic cadets move into field for instruction in various phases of defense tactics under simulated combat environment, with guard duty, map reading, patrolling, use of weapons, and challenge of living under field conditions. Basics also spend week on survival training.

WASTE HEAT FROM turbine engine exhaust will be used by Army to power new air conditioning system under development at Engineer Research and Development Laboratories, Ft. Belvoir, Va. System will be used with Army's missile fire-control vans and similar mobile shelters linked to gas turbine generators.

AIR FORCE'S FIRST Survival School class has begun training at Fairchild AFB, Wash., following transfer of school from Stead AFB, Nev. Course trains aircrew members in basic survival, combat survival, evasion and escape, resistance to exploitation, and counterinsurgency. Class of 125 students will enter training each week until Jan. 2, 1967, to be followed by 160 weekly.

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Background for Commanders

Aid To Republic of Vietnam Mounts

(Background for Commanders on February 5 reviewed the assistance provided to the Republic of Vietnam by free world nations. In the July 9 Backgrounder, Ministers of the SEATO nations noted, among other things, the increase in assistance to South Vietnam. This Backgrounder follows up with more information on the subject, from the recent remarks of Majority Leader of the House of Representatives Carl Albert, which appeared in the June 27 Congressional Record.)

The main burden of outside support for the Government of South Vietnam has been and will continue to be borne by the United States in the foreseeable future. Substantial contributions of military and civilian assistance are provided by a large number of other countries, however.

In response to appeals made on July 15, 1964, by the Government of Vietnam for more international support, free world assistance to South Vietnam increased greatly through additional pledges and new contributions. Prior to the July appeal only 10 nations, including the United States, were providing aid.

Countries Now Contributing

At the present time, 34 free world countries are providing—and several more have agreed to provide—assistance to South Vietnam. Negotiations are underway between the Government of Vietnam and many of these nations for additional aid.

The countries now contributing help are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China (Taiwan), Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany (West), Greece, Guatemala, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Military Contributions

Free world personnel, other than American, in Vietnam under governmental arrangements now number over 30,000, the large majority of which are military personnel. However, some of these military personnel are engaged in civic action programs, such as rural reconstruction and medical care. Among these are personnel from Korea, the Philippines, New Zealand, and Australia.

Korea—A Korean combat division has been in Vietnam since last fall, and a second division is now being deployed.

Australia—The Australian Government is increasing its military forces in Vietnam from its present 3,900 men to 4,500.

Philippines—The Philippine Congress has approved President Marcos' request for a 2,000-man engineering force with supporting security personnel to be sent to Vietnam.

New Zealand has raised its artillery battery from four to six howitzers.

Thailand—The Thai Government has announced that it will furnish a landing ship, patrol vessel and two transport aircraft with crews, thereby adding to a previous small military contribution.

In proportion to the population of these countries and that of the United States, these contributions are the equivalent of the following number of American troops:

Korea—327,000
Australia—90,000
Philippines—13,000

Economic Contributions

Significant economic contributions have been made by the United Kingdom, Japan, West Germany, France, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand in the form of loans, grants, and commercial credits. For example:

Germany has made available in loans and grants about $27 million.

Australia has provided technical and economic assistance totaling nearly $8 million.

France's assistance since 1955 has totaled more than $111 million.

Japan has provided about $55 million chiefly in the form of reparations.

Social and Humanitarian Assistance

Many nations are giving social and humanitarian assistance to South Vietnam. More than 10 nations are sending medical teams which provide for the medical needs of entire provinces. Others have contributed medicines and supplies for the half million refugees in South Vietnam. Educators and engineers from friendly nations are assisting Vietnam to rebuild.

The Heart of the Matter

Tens of thousands of trained and armed men, including units of the North Vietnamese regular army, have been sent by Hanoi into South Vietnam for the purpose of imposing Hanoi's will on South Vietnam by force. It is this external aggression which is responsible for the presence of U.S. combat forces. Indeed, it was not until the early summer of 1965 that the number of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam reached the number of those which have been infiltrated by Hanoi. If this aggression from the outside were removed, U.S. combat forces would not be needed.

Cost Reduction Winners Include 3 AF Members

Three members of the Air Force were among 17 individuals who received Certificates of Merit from President Johnson for achievements in the Defense Cost Reduction Program.

They were: Capt. Robert E. Gorman, Air Force Plant Representative's Office, General Electric Co., Cincinnati, Ohio; MSgt. Royal E. Carpenter, Alaskan Air Command, Elmendorf, AFB, Alaska; and SSgt. Barrington Hamilton, Air Training Command, Williams AFB, Ariz.

Civilians receiving awards were Sherman M. King, Anthony J. Gambale, John W. Gane, Robert A. Belote, Mrs. Vivian E. D. G. Lewis, Claud E. Hull, Nathan Legman, J. Robert Bennett, Glenn J. Cunningham, John A. Quinn Jr., Mrs. Margaret R. Countryman, Donald McCullough, John I. Hoston and Frederick J. Meineker.

California Colleges to Train Air Force Civilian Employees

A 160-thousand dollar contract designed to help alleviate a shortage of trained personnel in various electronics and aircraft repair skills has been entered into by Sacramento Air Materiel Area, McClellan AFB, Calif., and two colleges.

American River Junior College and Sacramento City College will teach these skills both to employees hired specifically for this program and a number of persons selected for cross-training from other positions.

The program is expected to ease the difficulties experienced by the logistics center in filling positions created as a result of an increased workload and the conflict in RVN.

C-141 Flies Non-Stop From Japan to Oklahoma

A C-141 Starlifter flew 6325 miles non-stop from Japan to Tinker AFB, Okla., in 12 hours, 50 minutes, demonstrating the tremendous strategic airlift capability of the aircraft.

COST REDUCTION—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara tells a press conference how Defense cost reduction actions saved $4.5 billion during FY66.

Selection Board Meets For Army Brigadiers

An Army selection board is scheduled to convene July 18 to recommend officers for appointment to temporary brigadier general.

Officials said all temporary colonels on the Army Promotion List (APL) with date of rank of Dec. 31, 1964 or earlier, will be considered.

Also considered will be permanent and temporary colonels (APL) as of June 30 whose basic date for promotion purposes is on or before Dec. 31, 1943 (year group 1943 and earlier). Primary zone of consideration will include year groups 1940 through 1943. Officials said there is no age criterion.

RVN Naval Support Activity Sets Cargo-Handling Record

The U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, set an all-time record in cargo in June with 213,457 measurement tons passing through RVN's busiest port. Previous record was 183,942 measurement tons in March.

Commanded by RAdm. Thomas R. Weschler, USN, the unit is responsible for providing logistic support to over 70,000 U.S. and allied forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone of RVN.

Air Munitions Cut-Back Scheduled in October

The Secretary of Defense has announced air munitions will be cut back 30 percent by October.

Mr. McNamara said that, even with the cut-backs, remaining production will be enough to build a half-million ton air ordnance inventory within a year.

While the cut-backs pertain only to air munitions, DOD studies of ground munitions also will be reviewed, Mr. McNamara said.

He said the air munition rescheduling is designed to avoid equipment and supply excesses, such as the $12 billion surplus at the end of the Korean War. Expected savings amount to $1 billion.

Personnel Actions

Maj. Gen. Ethan A. Chapman, USA, reassigned from USA Elm, Hq., U.S. Forces Japan, to USA Elm, NORAD/CONAD, Ent AFB, Colo., with duty as CG, Western Region NORAD/CONAD, Hamilton AFB, Calif., and additional duty as CG, 6th Region, ARADCOM, Ft. Baker, Calif. **Maj. Gen. John H. Bell, USAF,** reassigned from Director of Personnel Training and Education, HQ USAF, effective August 1, to Director of Personnel Planning, effective with departure of **Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Moore, USAF,** about November 1. In interim, Gen. Bell is assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, Reserve Forces, until arrival of **Maj. Gen. Richard S. Abbey, USAF.**

Nuclear Surface Ship Joins 1st Fleet Training Exercise

"Belaying Pin," second major First Fleet exercise of the year, was held off the West Coast July 8-15.

It was the first West Coast training exercise in which a nuclear-powered surface ship, the guided missile cruiser USS Long Beach, took part.

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